

Opening Statement of the Honorable Joseph R. Pitts
Subcommittee on Health
Markup of H.R. 4067 and H.R. ____
July 28, 2014

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Today, the Subcommittee is marking up two pieces of legislation.

The first is a Committee Print, to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide for recommendations for the development and use of clinical data registries for the improvement of patient care.

As part of our ongoing efforts to reform physician payments under the Medicare program, as well as other initiatives that advance the care for those with chronic illness, we have heard from multiple parties how important registries are to fulfilling the promise of quality care in this country.

This bill would require the Secretary to publish recommendations on best practices for the development of clinical data registries that put chronic disease prevention and quality care more firmly in the hands of patients and their providers.

Our second bill, H.R. 4067, would provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2014.

H.R. 4067 would continue to delay the enforcement of a 2009 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) rule that mandated direct physician supervision of outpatient therapeutic services, such as drug infusions, blood transfusions, and cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services. The delay applies only to critical access and small rural hospitals with fewer than 100 beds.

I urge all of my colleagues to support these two important bills, and I yield back the remainder of my time.

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